



# DENNIS

Barnstable County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Dennis, named an All American Town in 1978, combines its traditional New England heritage with modern day conveniences. The villages of East Dennis, Dennis and South Dennis feature scenic historic districts hailing back to whaling days, while tranquil tree-lined streets meander through Dennisport and West Dennis. Sixteen inviting beaches lie on the warm waters of Nantucket Sound to the south and on the crisp refreshing waters of Cape Cod Bay to the north. Numerous recreation trails offer healthful relaxation, and well developed business districts throughout the villages provide ample goods and services.

Residents of Dennis feel a sense of pride in their home by the sea. The quiet little town, incorporated in 1793, was named for Josiah Dennis, a favorite minister. The town was involved in the maritime activities of the 1800's and was full of the amazing tales of clipper ship adventures. As the twentieth century approached and the glory days of sea captains faded, Dennis residents turned to commercial fishing and land-based industries. Dennis comes into its own during the summer months, with special events every week. Home to the nation's oldest summer theater, the Cape Playhouse, Dennis offers varied summer activities, with arts and craft shows, concerts on the village green and Dennis Festival Days, held in August, which celebrate the friendly heritage of this All American New England town.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, on Cape Cod. Bordered by Cape Cod Bay on the north, Brewster and Harwich on the east, Nantucket Sound on the south, and Yarmouth on the west. Dennis is 76 miles southeast of Boston and 260 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 22.24 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 20.61 sq. miles

**Population:** 13,864

**Density:** 673 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Hyannis Station)

Normal temperature in January.....28.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....70.4°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.9"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Dennis, Harwich

## Regional Planning Agency

Cape Cod Commission

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Barnstable-Yarmouth



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 394-8300

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Executive Secretary

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1793

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	9,675		
Democrats	2,175	22.5	%
Republicans	2,100	21.7	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	5,400	55.8	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Dennis town, Barnstable County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	15,973	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	15,973	100.0
Male.....	7,967	46.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	264	1.7
Female.....	8,006	53.9	Mexican.....	55	0.3
Under 5 years.....	607	3.8	Puerto Rican.....	102	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	718	4.5	Cuban.....	6	-
10 to 14 years.....	865	5.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	101	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	753	4.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	15,709	98.3
20 to 24 years.....	492	3.1	White alone.....	14,999	93.9
25 to 34 years.....	1,443	9.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,108	13.2	Total population.....	15,973	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,300	14.4	In households.....	15,830	99.1
55 to 59 years.....	1,097	6.9	Householder.....	7,504	47.0
60 to 64 years.....	1,048	6.6	Spouse.....	3,679	23.0
65 to 74 years.....	2,407	15.1	Child.....	3,357	21.0
75 to 84 years.....	1,689	10.6	Own child under 18 years.....	2,488	15.6
85 years and over.....	446	2.8	Other relatives.....	520	3.3
Median age (years).....	49.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	150	0.9
18 years and over.....	13,276	83.1	Nonrelatives.....	770	4.8
Male.....	6,010	37.6	Unmarried partner.....	364	2.3
Female.....	7,266	45.5	In group quarters.....	143	0.9
21 years and over.....	12,919	80.9	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	5,206	32.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	143	0.9
65 years and over.....	4,542	28.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,955	12.2	Total households.....	7,504	100.0
Female.....	2,587	16.2	Family households (families).....	4,581	61.0
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,412	18.8
One race.....	15,739	98.5	Married-couple family.....	3,679	49.0
White.....	15,173	95.0	With own children under 18 years.....	948	12.6
Black or African American.....	308	1.9	Female householder, no husband present.....	693	9.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	59	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	368	4.9
Asian.....	59	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	2,923	39.0
Asian Indian.....	17	0.1	Householder living alone.....	2,499	33.3
Chinese.....	17	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,331	17.7
Filipino.....	4	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,532	20.4
Japanese.....	3	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	3,208	42.8
Korean.....	9	0.1	Average household size.....	2.11	(X)
Vietnamese.....	2	-	Average family size.....	2.65	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	7	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	14,105	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	7,504	53.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	6,601	46.8
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	6,026	42.7
Some other race.....	140	0.9	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	234	1.5	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	13.0	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	7,504	100.0
White.....	15,358	96.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	5,706	76.0
Black or African American.....	413	2.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,799	24.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	115	0.7	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.10	(X)
Asian.....	75	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.13	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	-			
Some other race.....	258	1.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	152
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	80
Federal (Section 8):	85



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Dennis is situated on Cape Cod, a 65-mile long sandy peninsula comprising Barnstable County. The Cape has excellent highway, rail, bus and air connections to other parts of New England. Air, bus, and passenger rail service expand during the summer months to accommodate the large numbers of tourists.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 6A, 28, and 134, and the Mid-Cape Highway (U.S. Route 6).

### Rail

The Bay Colony Railroad provides freight rail service in Dennis. Contact number: (617) 380-3556

### Bus

Dennis is a member of the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA), which operates a b-bus demand response service. The Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Company provides limited bus service between Dennis and Boston via Hyannis.

### Other

The Barnstable Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,249' and 5,430' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. The Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Company provides bus service from Dennis to Logan Airport via Hyannis.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Cape Museum of Fine Arts

Route 6A

(617) 385-4477

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Eagle Pond Nursing Home

### Hospices

Hospice VNA Centre & Outer Cape

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.